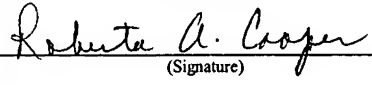




Atty. Dkt. No. 039153-0647 (H0976)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Paton et al.  
Title: PRE-CLEANING FOR  
SILICIDATION IN AN  
SMOS PROCESS  
Appl. No.: 10/619,879  
Filing Date: 07/15/2003  
Examiner: Thao P. Le  
Art Unit: 2818  
Confirmation No.: 7815

<b>CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING</b>	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service's "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
EV 505572746 US	08/11/04
(Express Mail Label Number)	(Date of Deposit)
Roberta A. Cooper	
(Printed Name)	
	
(Signature)	

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Notice of Allowance dated July 28, 2004 concerning the above-referenced patent application.

The Examiner stated the following:

None of the prior art teaches or suggests the claimed limitations having a method of manufacturing an integrated circuit comprising the steps of providing a substrate including a layer of germanium and a gate structure above the substrate or an IC structure, pre-cleaning the IC structure using HF then pre-cleaning the IC structure with an argon and hydrogen plasma to remove native oxide in the IC structure.

While the Applicants agree that the allowed claims recite a combination of subject matter that is patentable over the cited references, the Applicants do not necessarily agree with or acquiesce in the statement of reasons for allowance given by the Examiner. Moreover, the Applicants note that the recited subject matter as well as various other subject matter and/or combinations of subject matter may be patentable for other reasons than those given by the

Examiner. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to set forth additional and/or alternative reasons for patentability and/or allowance in connection with the present Application or in any other future proceeding.

**REMARKS**

These Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.104 is intended to be responsive to the Notice of Allowance dated July 28, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 8/11/2004

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP  
Customer Number: 26371  
Telephone: (414) 297-5564  
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

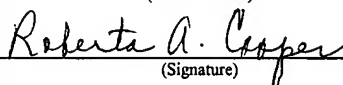
Marcus W. Sprow  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 48,580



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EV 505572746 US	08/11/04
(Express Mail Label Number)	(Date of Deposit)
Roberta A. Cooper	
(Printed Name)	
	
(Signature)	

**ISSUE FEE TRANSMITTAL**

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed herewith please find Issue Fee Transmittal Form PTOL-85(B) along with a check in the amount of \$1,330.00 for payment of the Issue Fee for the above-identified utility patent application. Also enclosed is "Comments On Statement Of Reasons For Allowance" (2 pages).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 8/11/2004

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP  
Customer Number: 26371  
Telephone: (414) 297-5564  
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

By 

Marcus W. Sprow  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 48,580